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Educational Television Series 1968-69

Teachers' Guide

DEPT. OF EDUCATION
HISTORICAL COLLECTION

Social Studies/History

JUNIOR AND INTERMEDIATE DIVISIONS

Sainte-Marie among the Hurons

Educational Television Branch
ONTARIO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
1670 Bayview Avenue, Toronto 17

SOCIAL STUDIES/HISTORY
Junior and Intermediate Divisions

SAINTE-MARIE AMONG THE HURONS

1 program, 30 minutes in length.

This is a special program directly related to the grade seven course of studies, but could be valuable to pupils and teachers of all grades from four to ten.

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Evaluations of the program, reports on the results of pedagogical techniques used, and inquiries may be directed to:

Assistant Superintendent,
Social Sciences,
Education Section,
ETV Branch,
1670 Bayview Avenue,
Toronto 17, Ont.

SAINTE-MARIE AMONG THE HURONS

This program attempts to "recreate" history as it actually occurred in seventeenth century New France. In addition to the story of Fort Sainte-Marie, the customs, dress, speech, games and practical skills of both the French and Indians are realistically portrayed.

The program can serve a two-fold purpose. It can supply information and explanations about the early relationships of Europeans and the native population and it can motivate students to further investigate not only the topic dealt with, but the wealth of history associated with their local area.

PROGRAM CONTENT

Made for the Huronia Historical Development Council of the Ontario Department of Tourism and Information, this exceptional film vividly recreates the construction of Fort Sainte-Marie by the French between the years 1639 and 1649. The ideals behind its construction, the faith of the Jesuit priests and artisans, the close relationships they had with the Huron Indians and the fur traders, are all realistically dramatized. Ancient building crafts and Indian skills are carefully interwoven to make the story even more authentic. The French dream of settlement, a prosperous fur trade, and the conversion of the Hurons, is contrasted with the desires of the marauding Iroquois, and their silent Dutch and English partners who coveted this trade. The film leaves no doubt in the viewer's mind that luxuries brought to the Huron by the white man were accompanied by the deadly European diseases against which there was no defence. Broken by the white man's "gifts", the Huron tribe diminished rapidly. The destruction of the fort in the final scene parallels the ravages among the Hurons. We are left asking why this area was laid waste, then ignored for 200 years.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The first European settlements which appeared in North America more than 350 years ago were tiny little pockets of existence which clung to the cheerless Atlantic coast. The construction of Fort Sainte-Marie in 1639 contrasted sharply with its predecessors in size, permanence, impregnability, and purpose. It was located one thousand miles inland within sight of Georgian Bay and was surrounded by 20,000 to 30,000 Huron Indians who lived in twenty-three palisaded villages. This area of approximately 800 square miles was bounded on three sides by Georgian Bay, the Severn River, Lakes Couchiching and Simcoe.

The Hurons were an industrious group of Indians who fished, farmed, trapped, and traded. They conducted themselves as middlemen, bartering with the French and in turn with tribes to the north. It is interesting to note that these Indians of Huronia were not really Hurons but were in actual fact called *Quendats,* (pronounced "Wen-dats"). The name, Huron, came from the distorted pronounciation of the word "Hures" which means boarhead, a description of the plucked Huron hair style.

Missionary work in the area began in 1615 when a Recollet priest, Father Joseph Le Caron, founded the first mission in the presence of Champlain. The Recollet Fathers had little success in the area and in 1626 Father John de Brébeuf of the Jesuit Order began his work. Brébeuf spent the remainder of his days in the area with the exception of a five-year period from 1629 to 1634 when the English claimed New France.

After this period Cardinal Richelieu, the powerful French statesman, was reputed to have granted 30,000 livres for the construction of fortifications, double palisades, heavy stone and huge timber bastions, European firearms and at least one cannon. The fort contained sixty-six Europeans including priests, lay brothers, soldiers, artisans, servants and even a physician. As many as 3,000 Indians were sheltered within the walls and often more than 2,000 meals were served in one day.

During the 1640's, the Dutch and English armed the Iroquois with the intent of wresting the rich fur trade from the French. By the end of this decade the Hurons had been ravaged by famine and the white man's diseases and they lived in constant fear of Iroquois attack. They were a broken people.

Fort Sainte-Marie was never really attacked but it was gradually isolated, so that it became the final foothold of the French and Hurons in the area. The Fort was burned by the French on June 14, 1649, and the residents fled to Christian Island where Sainte-Marie II was hastily constructed. In the spring of 1650 the remaining French and a handful of Hurons made the treacherous journey to Quebec and for the next 200 years the wilderness closed in on Sainte-Marie and the French ambitions for the area.

PRE-VIEWING SUGGESTIONS

Some teachers may prefer not to anticipate or otherwise influence the freshness of the viewing experience by extended preparation. However, others may wish to:

1. Review with the students the background of the French fur trade.
2. Establish the relative locations of Fort Sainte-Marie, St. Ignace, Fort Saint Louis, Penetanguishene, the Iroquois, Dutch and English settlements, and Christian Island.

POST-VIEWING SUGGESTIONS

1. Research, projects, and discussions could be developed relative to some of the following:
   - the French aims in Huronia
   - the reasoning behind the Fort's construction
   - good and bad effects of the white man on the Hurons and Iroquois
   - speculation about the Huron and Iroquois positions, had the French not come to Huronia
   - the strategic considerations involved in locating Sainte-Marie and the other missions
   - the reasoning behind the French belief that an almost impregnable fort like Sainte-Marie had to be deserted . . . some historians question this action today

- the Huron way of life — trapping, farming, trading, and bartering with the French and the more northerly tribes.

2. Students could write stories or plays on the following:
   - Life in the Longhouse
   - Missionaries travelling in and between the Huron villages
   - Aspects of the fur trade
   - Rivalry between the "Black Robes" and the medicine men

3. The film could stimulate an interest in devising paintings, masks, Indian beads, costumes, wigs, headdresses, ceremonial items such as pipes and rattles, models of longhouses, moccasins, and canoes.

4. The reconstruction of Fort Sainte-Marie could be investigated, keeping the following in mind:
   - how the actual pattern of the construction of the old fort was discovered
   - the methods used to duplicate the old construction
   - the value of such a reconstruction
   - what will remain from our civilization in 300 to 500 years.

EXCURSIONS AND TOURS

There are sixteen educationally significant sites available to Ontario Schools in the Huronia area. Valuable information about the sites plus reservation forms for booking may be obtained by writing or telephoning the following:

History Voyages,
Sainte-Marie among the Hurons
(1639-1649)
R. R. No. 1
Midland, Ontario.

Telephone (705) 526-7838 (Midland)

Arrangements to co-ordinate efforts and make some suggestions for class tours may be made directly through the above address.

HELPFUL MATERIALS

From the above address . . .

1. A cardboard model of Sainte-Marie $1.00
2. Records — *Brébeuf and his Brethren* (tells the story of Sainte-Marie in song and dialogue) $6.96

A list of other sources of materials may also be obtained from:

The Huronia Tourist Association,
County Building,
Barrie, Ontario.

1. A tourist guide map showing all historical sites in the Huronia district
2. Many different free folders and pamphlets in limited quantities

PUBLICATIONS

From: The Simcoe County Museum,
R.R. No. 2,
Minesing, Ontario.

Huronia, Cradle of Ontario History — 75 cents

Toanche of the Hurons — 25 cents

The County of Simcoe — 50 cents

FURTHER REFERENCES

The following may be borrowed from public libraries or obtained from bookshops or publishers.

BARBEAU, MARIUS, *Huron-Wyandot Traditional Narratives and Native Texts,* Canadian Department of Northern Affairs and Resources, National Museum of Canada, Bulletin No. 165, 1960.

BISHOP, MORRIS, *Champlain, The Life of Fortitude,* McClelland and Stewart Ltd., 1963.

INNIS, HAROLD ADAM, *The Fur Trade in Canada,* University of Toronto Press, 1967 (Revised).

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JURY, WILFRID and ELSIE, *Sainte-Marie among the Hurons,* Oxford University Press, 1965.

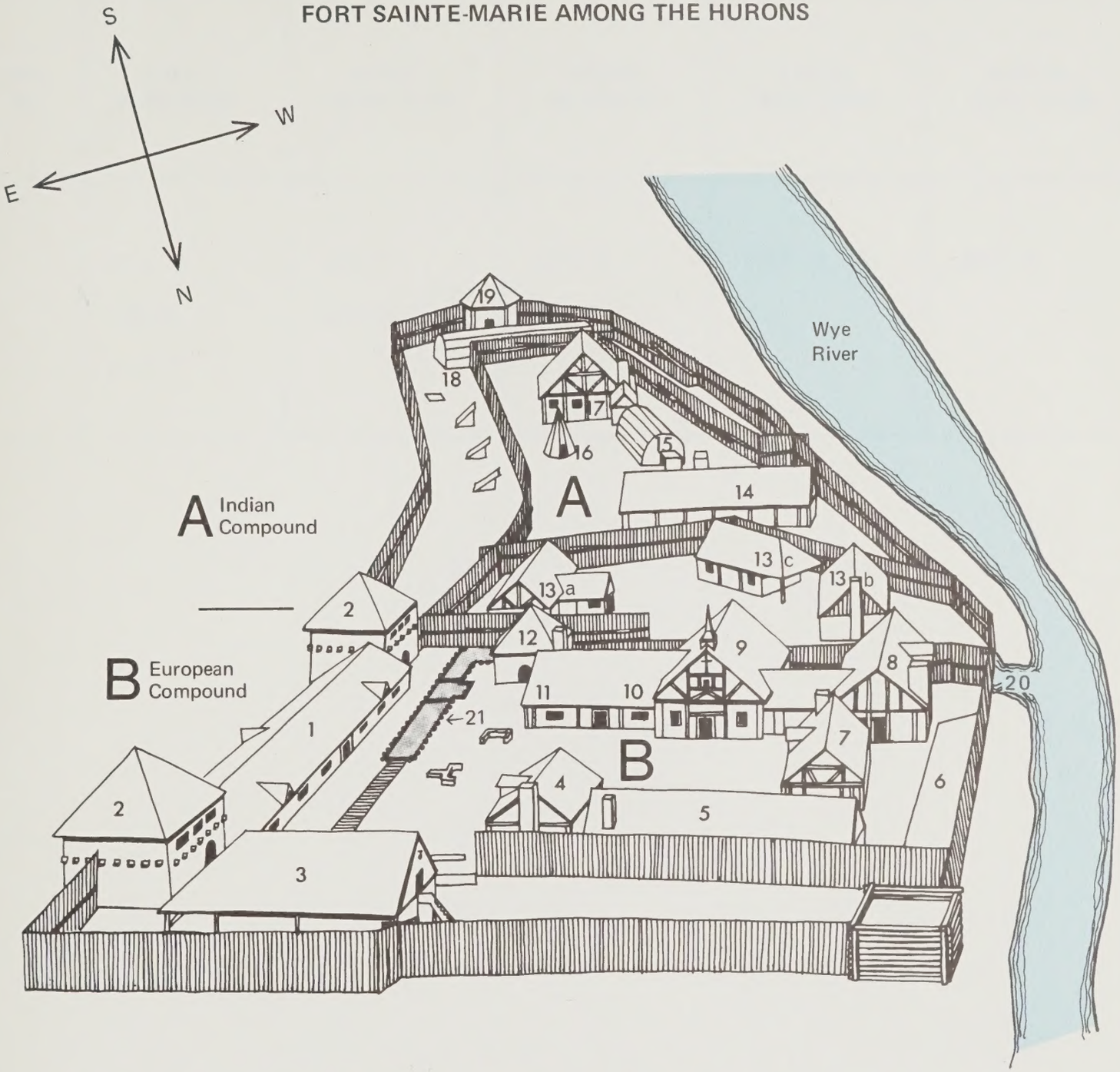
NISH, CAMERON, *The French Regime,* Prentice Hall of Canada Ltd., 1965.

PARKMAN, FRANCIS, *The Jesuits in North America,* Little Brown Ltd., 1963.

TOOKER, ELISABETH, *An Ethnography of the Huron Indians, 1615-1649,* Huronia Historical Development Council and the Ontario Department of Education, 1967; available from Sainte-Marie among the Hurons (1939-1649), R.R. No. 1, Midland, Ontario.

TRIGGER, B.G., "Franco-Huron Relations in the First Half of the Seventeenth Century," *Canadian Historical Review,* June 1968, pp. 107-141; may be obtained from University of Toronto Press.

FORT SAINTE-MARIE AMONG THE HURONS



1. Entrance 2. Bastion 3. Granary 4. Dwelling 5. Barn 6. Stables 7. Cook-house
8. Jesuit Residence 9. European Chapel 10. Carpenter Shop 11. Blacksmith Shop
12. Bastion 13a-13b-13c. Dwellings 14. Indian Church of St. Joseph 15. Huron Longhouse
16. Algonquin Dwelling 17. Hospital 18. Huron Longhouse 19. Five-sided Bastion
20. Entrance to lock system 21. North-south water channel

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1 program of 30 minutes

Prog. No.	CBC 9:30-10:00	CBLT 10:00-10:30	CHCH 9:10-9:40	CKCO 9:30-10:00	CKLW 10:30-11:00
1	NOV. 12 FEB. 27 MAY 27	JAN. 22 MAY 28	APR. 16 MAY 29	MAR. 14	JUNE 6

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